

Soil & Water Conservation

Organization: 320050

	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Current	2014/15 Requested	2014/15 Approved	Percent Change
Revenues					
State	\$62,247	\$89,890	\$149,220	\$179,695	100%
Local	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$299	0%
General Fund	110,488	110,644	136,472	105,995	-4%
Total	\$172,735	\$200,534	\$285,692	\$285,989	43%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$132,929	\$132,144	\$127,097	\$127,394	-4%
Supplies & Operations	39,806	68,390	158,595	158,595	132%
Capital	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$172,735	\$200,534	\$285,692	\$285,989	43%
Employees					
Permanent	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	0%
Hourly	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.00	0%
Total	2.50	2.78	2.50	2.50	-10%

Budget Highlights

In Fiscal Year 2014/15, the Soil and Water Conservation District's budget increased 43 percent (\$85,455). This increase is all attributed to a \$149,220 grant from North Carolina's Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) grant. The grant will fund phase II of the Shuford Dam removal project.

Performance Measurement

Fiscal Year 2014/15

Soil and Water Conservation's outcomes for Fiscal Year 2014/15 will focus on ensuring clean water and soil, properly managing forest and wildlife, and securing the economic and cultural viability of the community. The department's outcomes include assisting in implementation of the County's Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD), overseeing the County's cost share programs, and increasing grade school students' environmental literacy.

Fiscal Year 2013/14

At mid-year, the Soil and Water Conservation District was on target to achieve or had already achieved 100 percent (3 of 3) of its Fiscal Year 2013/14 outcomes. The district promoted the County's Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) program by ensuring 100 percent of all qualified applicants were assisted within ten days. The type of assistance varied dependent upon the applicant's needs. Some individuals needed a conservation plan created while others needed a plan review. Soil and Water is on schedule to allocate all cost share funds in the North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP) and Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). During the next fiscal year, the Soil and Water Conservation District will collaborate with Cooperative Extension to promote the importance of local agriculture for our environmental and community health.

Fiscal Year 2012/13

The Soil and Water Conservation District promoted and assisted the implementation of the County's Voluntary Agricultural District program. The Conservation District effectively installed all identified best management practices on cost-share contracts before their expiration and conducted at least two quality spot-checks of previously installed best management practices. To promote involvement and awareness of soil and water conservation, the district hosted an educational poster, essay, speech, and PowerPoint contest for 3rd through 9th grades. This was an expansion of the contest that was previously held for 5th through 8th grades.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Statement of Purpose

To ensure a quality urban and rural environment with clean water, protected soil resources, properly managed forest and wildlife, and an environmentally, economically and culturally viable agricultural community.

Outcomes

1. To promote and assist in the implementation of the County's Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) program. 100 percent of qualifying properties that request to become a part of the VAD, and have land that is considered "Highly Erodible" will have a conservation plan created (or reviewed if one already exists) to meet the VAD and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards with a turnaround time of ten business days.
2. To increase environmental literacy of soil and water conservation in Catawba County through various educational initiatives, including, but not limited to educational contests, presentations, professional development and civic involvement such as the Environmental Field Days where we host fourteen 5th grade classes at South Side Park over a two day event. This increase will be measured based on evaluations submitted by participants and teachers. The increase will be shown by using a matrix with a 50 percent increase across a 20 percent increasing sliding scale.
3. To provide timely customer service to Catawba County residents and landowners by providing them with technical assistance concerning erosion and storm water related issues. 90 percent of initial site visits will occur within five business days of request.
4. To engage students and promote the educational opportunities provided by the Catawba Soil & Water Conservation District with private, public and homeschooled envirothon teams. We will have a 10 percent participation increase in our envirothon program, with a 50 percent increase in knowledge of programs shown by a pre- and post- test given to the envirothon students.
5. To promote the importance of local agriculture for our environmental and community health, NC Cooperative Extension will partner with Soil and Water Conservation to offer six presentations to civic groups, school groups, and to the general public at County farmers' markets. One hundred people will be reached through the presentations.